



## 2014 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS CITY OF GLOUCESTER POET LAUREATE

**Deadline for applications: Thursday, May 22, 2014**

The City of Gloucester's Committee for the Arts is accepting applications for the position of Gloucester Poet Laureate.

**The Poet Laureate is dedicated to building community through poetry and encouraging a love of poetry among people of all ages.**

This Call for Applications includes the following sections:

- Brief History of the Position
- Term and Duties
- Eligibility
- Selection Process
- Application Form
- Appendix: City Ordinance establishing the position of Poet Laureate

Application also available on the Committee for the Arts webpage on the City of Gloucester Website:

<http://gloucester-ma.gov/index.aspx?nid=102>

## **Brief History of the Position**

In 1998 the Gloucester City Council, at the request of the local artistic community, appointed Vincent Ferrini to the honorary position of Poet Laureate. Ferrini, then in his 80's, was an accomplished writer and poet, active and vocal in city issues, and was recognized as having made significant contributions to the community.

Following Vincent's passing in 2007, the City Council appointed John Ronan to the position in 2008 for a two-year term. John, a writer, playwright, and poet, published regular columns in the local paper during his term, conducted an annual poetry contest in the schools, and wrote and read poems at public events.

In 2009, the City Council completed adoption of an ordinance authorizing the Committee for the Arts to administer a process for the selection of the Poet Laureate. Following that process, in 2010, the City Council confirmed the Mayor's appointment of Ruthanne "Rufus" Collinson as Poet Laureate, for a four-year term. Rufus has been active in speaking and reading in City classrooms, writing poems for various civic events, and publishing periodic newspaper columns about poetry and her activities as Poet Laureate.

## **Term and Duties**

The specific duties and responsibilities of the Poet Laureate of Gloucester will depend primarily on the candidate chosen, but principally the individual should:

- advocate for poetry, language and the arts;
- promote and make all people, of all generations, in all segments of our society, more aware of the art of creative writing, particularly in the craft of poetry; and
- assist all poets by increasing the reading, writing and publishing of this art for the greater enjoyment and appreciation of the craft.

Examples of activities or programs which could be pursued follow. These are not requirements; they are meant to stimulate ideas. The Poet Laureate may devise his or her own initiatives.

1. To raise public awareness of poetry through readings, appearances, workshops, and other public displays of poetry.
2. To arrange for Poet in the School appearances/readings in middle, junior and senior high schools or other projects to encourage students in the art of poetry.

3. To write a monthly poetry column, in which reviews of recent poetry books, individual poems, or other poetry issues are explored.
4. To organize poetry workshops at local libraries.
5. To create poems for specific occasions.
6. To help organize an annual city-wide poetry event.
7. To select poems for display in public spaces.
8. To create a poetry contest or activity for seniors.

The Poet Laureate also is requested to provide a brief annual progress report to the Committee for the Arts.

All writings, notes, and original materials produced during the tenure of the Poet Laureate shall remain the property of the Poet Laureate.

The term of service for the Poet Laureate is four years from the date of appointment. If the Poet Laureate cannot fulfill his/her term, the Laureate Selection Panel shall select a new Poet Laureate to complete the term.

### **Eligibility**

Applicants must:

- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Reside in the City of Gloucester for a minimum of four years prior to nomination.
- Display a strong commitment to the community.
- Be active as a published poet.
- Be capable and enthusiastic to fulfill duties.

A Poet Laureate may serve multiple terms upon reapplication and approval through the panel process.

Note: All candidates are eligible regardless of race, gender, belief, national origin, sexual orientation or physical ability.

### **Selection Process**

The Call for Applications will be widely publicized through print and online media and through contacts with local writers and organizations.

Applications will be reviewed by a Poet Laureate Selection Panel. The Selection Panel will consist of the Mayor or the Mayor's representative, a member of the City Council or a representative from the City Council, two members of the area's literary community and one member of the Gloucester Committee for the Arts. This Panel will select a finalist and an

alternate from among the applicants. This name will be submitted to the Gloucester Committee for the Arts. The recommendation will then be forwarded to the Mayor for approval and recommendation to City Council. The Panel may or may not ask for interviews with the final candidates. The Panel reserves the right to not recommend to fill the position and instead to re-advertise at a later time.

Applications are due no later than 6:30 pm on Thursday, May 22, 2014 at the Office of the Mayor, Gloucester City Hall, 9 Dale Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930. Applications must be delivered in hard copy and may be mailed or delivered in person. Applications must be **received** by the deadline.

Applicants will be notified of the recommendation to City Council for appointment of the Poet Laureate in early July.

## Gloucester Poet Laureate Application Form and Materials

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

On separate pages provide the following information:

1. List any memberships in literary organizations.
2. List publications where your work has appeared.
3. List literary awards and dates awarded.
4. A 100-500 word essay to include why this is an important post for the City; why you are interested in the post; what activities you would pursue; and exactly why poetry is significant to the City.
5. Submit three poems, one of which was written within the last two years. Photocopies from books are acceptable. If possible include a sample having to do with a civic or Gloucester-related theme.
6. Submit a brief CV/resume (not to exceed two pages).

Please be sure the applicant's name appears on every page submitted.

Handwritten materials are not acceptable. Materials will not be returned to the applicant.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize my name to stand for nomination for the position of Poet Laureate of Gloucester, MA, and affirm that I am 21 years of age or older and that I have resided in Gloucester for the past four (4) years. I also verify that the representations made in this application are true and complete and that the work samples submitted with my application are my own work.

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applications must be received no later than 6:30 pm on Thursday, May 22, 2014, at the Office of the Mayor, Gloucester City Hall. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

## **Appendix: City Ordinance establishing the position of Poet Laureate**

### **Sec. 2-514. Poet laureate established.**

- (a) The city shall designate a poet as the official poet laureate of the city. The poet laureate shall be designated by the mayor and confirmed by the city council. A poet laureate selection committee shall review applications and make a recommendation to the mayor for the designation. The committee shall be comprised of the following:
  - (1) One member of the committee for the arts.
  - (2) The mayor or one representative appointed by the mayor.
  - (3) A member of city council or one representative appointed by the city council.
  - (4) Two members chosen by the committee for the arts who have a demonstrated substantial expertise and knowledge of poetry and reside in the city.
- (b) The committee for the arts shall set forth the criteria for the selection of the poet laureate to the selection committee.
- (c) The selection committee will then review the applications and make a recommendation to the committee for the arts for the poet laureate candidates.
- (d) The committee for the arts shall forward the selection committee's recommendation for the position to the mayor for appointment with approval by the city council.
- (e) The responsibilities of the poet laureate shall be established by the committee for the arts and may include, but not be limited to, providing public poetry readings, encouraging poetry appreciation within the city, and composing and publishing poems. The poet laureate shall be an honorary title and shall not receive any monetary compensation from the city.
- (f) The committee for the arts shall assist and support the poet laureate whenever possible and both parties should meet on an annual basis.
- (g) The poet laureate shall be a domiciled resident of the city and shall serve a four-year term.

(Ord. of 12-15-2009(01))